

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00280 122121Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /056 W

-----122348Z 022120 /73

R 120820Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1471

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJ: ROKG PLEASED WITH CURRENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS DEBATING  
SOCIETY

REF: (A) 76 SEOUL 8897, (B) 76 SEOUL 7307

BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER LONG JOURNEY, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DURING PAST SESSION REACHED GOAL THAT PRESIDENT PARK ENVISIONED FOR IT WHEN INTRODUCING YUSHIN CONSTITUTION: ROLE AS DEBATING SOCIETY. GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY CONGRATULATING THEMSELVES ON SUCCESS OF THIS 1977 BUDGET SESSION, ALTHOUGH KIM YONG-SAM, ANGRY OVER DEPOSITION BY YI CHOL-SUNG AS NDP LEADER EARLIER THIS YEAR, HAS ATTACKED SESSION. NOT ONLY DID NDP VOTE FOR BUDGET BILL, IT DID NOT WALK OUT ON VOTE ON ONE MINOR BUT CONTROVERSIAL PIECE OF LEGISLATION WHICH IT OPPOSED. MUCH OF THIS IS DUE TO PERSONALITY OF NDP'S YI CHOL-SUNG WHO FOLLOWED "MIDDLE OF THE ROAD" POLICY AND PLAYED BALL WITH GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING RECENT FALL BUDGET SESSION, ENDING DECEMBER 18, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FINALLY FELL INTO ROLE AS MODERATE DEBATING SOCIETY, WHICH PLEASES PRESIDENT. AT SAME TIME PARTY LEADERS' TESTIMONY INDICATES THEY HAVE RETAINED OVERALL SELF-RESPECT, IF NOT RESPECT OF PEOPLE, AND BELIEVE THEY PERFORMED "SOMEWHAT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 00280 122121Z

USEFUL" FUNCTION. ASSEMBLY PASSED ON PROGRAMS FOR WHICH IT OFFERED SMALL INPUT BUT UNLIKE EARLIER PERIODS IN THE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S, FIERY POLITICAL CONFRONTATIONS WERE NOTABLY MISSING; NOR IN THIS SESSION WERE THERE ANY KIM OK-SON OUT-BURSTS AGAINST PAK AS IN 1975.

2. REAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASSEMBLY WER MEAGER.

BUDGET WAS PASSED PRETTY MUCH AS INTRODUCED BY GOVERNMENT WITH SMALL REDUCTIONS AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY 1 PERCENT, A LITTLE MORE THAN LAST YEAR. GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION MEMBERS IN CONVERSATIONS HAVE TAKEN CREDIT INDIVIDUALLY FOR THEIR "COURAGE" IN EFFECTING RELATIVELY SMALL CHANGES IN THE BUREAUCRACY'S ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND ATTACKING CERTAIN CORRUPT PRACTICES. NDP ALSO ZEROED IN ON PAK TONG-SON SCANDALS DURING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH NOT IN PLENARY SESSION, BUT NONE OF THIS WAS REPORTED IN PRESS. ASIDE FROM SOME HARSH BURSTS FROM NDP MEMBER O SE-UNG, NDP TOOK PRETTY MILD LINE, DECIDING THAT BEATING ROKG WITH THAT PARTICULAR STICK WOULD ONLY HURT OVERALL US/ROKG RELATIONS AND HARM ITS NEW "COOPERATIVE" STRATEGY.

3. ONLY FLY IN OINTMENT FOR GOVERNMENT IN OTHERWISE SUCCESSFUL SESSION FROM ITS VIEWPOINT WAS MILDLY CONTROVERSIAL PASSAGE OF "LOCAL TAX BILL" INCLUDING ITS UNPOPULAR "RESIDENCE TAX" PROVISIONS. MOST NDP ARGUMENTS AGAINST THIS TAX WERE CARRIED IN PRESS, AND EVEN SOME DRP ASSEMBLYMEN WERE RELUCTANT ABOUT SUPPORTING PROVISION CALLING IN CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL CASES FOR STEEP TAX RISE. IN THE END GOVERNMENT ACTUALLY INTRODUCED CUT-DOWN VERSION OF ORIGINAL DRAFT BILL. SOMEWHAT DISCONTENTED DRP MEMBERS RECOGNIZED THAT DEFEAT OF BILL WOULD UPSET OVERALL ROKG TAX MASTER PLAN AND SO VOTED FOR IT. NDP VOTED AGAINST BUT, SIGNIFICANTLY, DID NO BOYCOTT VOTE AS IT HAS IN PAST.

4. BOTH DRP AND NDP LEADERSHIP HAVE BEEN CONGRATULATING EACH OTHER IN PRESS OVER RELATIVELY CONTROVERSY-FREE SESSION. OFFICIAL ROKG ACCOLADES HAVE BEEN DISCREETLY MUTED BUT NO LESS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 00280 122121Z

OBVIOUS. DRP LEADERSHIP SUCCESSFULLY LED BUDGET THROUGH NEARLY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF PLENARY SESSION WITH ONLY MINISCULE DRP VOTING AGAINST IT. AT SAME TIME NDP OUTSIDERS, LED BY KIM YONG-SAM, HAVE FOR OBVIOUS REASONS DENIGRATED LEADER YI CHOL-SUNG'S EFFORTS AND ASSEMBLY OUTCOME. KIM VOWS TO CHALLENGE YI'S LEADERSHIP IN SPECIAL PARTY CONVENTION HE WILL CALL FOR NEXT FALL.

5. FOR BETTER OR WORSE, MUCH OF THIS SMOOTH-RUNNING PERFORMANCE WAS IN FACT MADE POSSIBLE BY CHARACTER OF OPPOSITION NDP'S YI CHOL-SUNG AND HIS DECISION TO TAKE MIDDLE-OF-ROAD POSITION. HE APPARENTLY SUCCESSFULLY PERSUADED PLURALITY OF HIS PARTY, AT LEAST FOR THIS SESSION, TO AVOID BRUISING CONFRONTATIONS SO THAT GREATER PROGRESS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES COULD BE MADE BY NOT ANTAGONIZING ROKG. YI'S BASIC POINT IN CONVERSATION WAS THAT THIS WAS ONLY "PRACTICAL" COURSE, GIVEN PRESIDENT PAK'S CHARACTER AND DEMANDS ON ASSEMBLY, TO EFFECT EVENTUAL LIBERALIZATION.

6. OUTLOOK FOR ASSEMBLY IN VIEW OF MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ESTIMATORS

IS FOR MORE OF THE SAME, WHICH IS TO SAY IT WILL HAVE LITTLE REAL EFFECT ON ROKG POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. IT WILL PROBABLY CONVEENE FOR SHORT SPECIAL SESSION SOME TIME DURING SPRING, MOST LIKELY IN MAY WHICH HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL TIME; NO CHANGE IN TENOR IS FORESEEN FOR THAT SESSION. NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET SESSION COULD TAKE ON DIFFERENT TONE HOWEVER, IF MORE RAMBUNCTIOUS NDP FIGURE SUCH AS KIM YONG-SAM WERE TO REGAIN HIS PARTY'S LEADERSHIP. IN THE END HOWEVER, WE EXPECT THAT NEXT YEAR AT THIS TIME WE WILL BE REPORTING AGAIN THAT THE ASSEMBLY MANAGED TO WIN SOMETHING LIKE A ONE PERCENT BUDGET REDUCTION, WHILE MAKING LITTLE REAL CONTRIBUTION TO ROKG LEGISLATION.  
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT BUDGET, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, OPPOSITION PARTIES, LEGISLATIVE BILLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SEOUL00280  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770012-0629  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SEOUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770158/aaaabzco.tel  
**Line Count:** 128  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c35470da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 SEOUL 8897, 76 SEOUL 7307  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3614698  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROKG PLEASED WITH CURRENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS DEBATING SOCIETY  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, KS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c35470da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009